



OCTOBER, 96

# THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

## GARS Ham Of The Month John Farr, KD6CLO

By Karl Phillips, N4JON

This month's ham of the month is John Farr, KD6CLO. John was born in Texas and grew up 40 miles north of Dallas in McKinney, Texas. John moved to California at an early age and attended grammar school and high school there. He graduated from Washington High School in Freemont, California from in 1990.

John got his ham ticket on October 29, 1991, licensed as KD6CLO, a Technician class. While in the US Army Signal Corp he upgraded to Technician Plus. Among his duty stations were Fort Lewis, Washington, Fort Gordon, Georgia and Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

John's other hobby interest is golf and he plays

quite regularly with his dad and shoots in the mid 90's. (I remember my dad took me to play once...I shot 90 my first time out....beat him...and he never took me again!!) John also likes pro football and has adopted the Carolina Panthers as his favorite team. (Me too, John...)

John owns several handheld rigs including a Yaesu FT-50, a Radio Shack HTX-202 and a KDK he uses almost exclusively for packet communications. Packet is John's favorite mode, but his most memorable QSO was on 10 meter HF phone. John got in a big pileup, got through and talked to a ham in Michigan (N8SWM) who

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## The President's Pen

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

Well thanks to the efforts of Marty Fowler, KE4MLH, our activities manager, we had a pretty interesting program at our last meeting regarding the installation of radio towers in Gwinnett County. This program was conducted by Mr. David Tucker and Mr. Dana Bates of the Department Of Planning And Development. There were lots of questions after they spoke and I believe that most attending the meeting got a pretty good idea of what is in store for them if they are contemplating erecting a radio tower.

As mentioned in my last months message in The GARZETTE, we have been quiet during the summer months and now is the time to shine



and get out and do something for the hobby and ourselves. We have already started the ball rolling. For those of you who did not attend the

Suwanee parade and the Buford Radio Shack radio demonstration, you sure missed out on a lot of fun. We may have interested a number of people in amateur radio and possibly some future members of the club to boot. It is never a waste of time and the benefits of doing these activities is well worth the effort put into them. The next opportunity for all you members to really shine is during the Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air at the end of this month. You need to do something for our future

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## GARS Moves Again



**GARS** moves to a new meeting location beginning with the meeting on October 17. The new location is the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. The church is located on Gwinnett Drive between Highway 29 and Scenic Highway (GA 124) across from Lawrenceville Elementary School. Talk-in will be available on the **GARS** 2 meter repeater on 147.075 (+) MHz.

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## THE GARZETTE

**THE GARZETTE** is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net) or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 236-7372, to Ike Chapman in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

### GARZETTE Editor

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Thanks to Joe Biddle, AD4PZ for his assistance in the newsletter each month with supplying scanned images, and assisting with folding and stapling. David Adcock, KA4KKF prints the mailing labels each month. Candy and Liz Chapman assist with the editing tasks by proof reading the newsletter. Sue Chapman gets the stamps and makes sure the newsletter gets to the post office each month.

My thanks to all of them for their help in producing **THE GARZETTE**.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in **THE GARZETTE** or for information concerning advertisement rates for **THE GARZETTE** should be directed to the following address:

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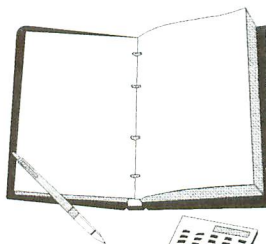
## Meeting Minutes September Club Meeting

By Bill Ahls, KE4EIH

GARS Secretary

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer Randy Drescher, K4HS; Activities Manager Marty Fowler, KE4MLH; Newsletter Editor Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; and Membership Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF.

The meeting was called to order by President Gould on September 19, 1996, at 19:30 local time at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville.



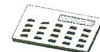
All members and visitors were invited to introduce themselves with a total of 56 persons signing the meeting log.

The program was the requirements of Gwinnett County for the installation of private, non-commercial radio towers also known as ham towers. The guest speakers were David Tucker, the development review manager, and Dana Bates, the county structural engineer, both from Gwinnett County Planning and Development. All towers over 50 feet are in moratorium in Gwinnett until announced, expected January 1, 1997. Older towers in existence over 5 years have a grandfather clause to the county code up to 50% repair or less for maintenance. For towers less than 50 feet, requirements and examples for passing the application process were presented and handed out. Many questions were answer for those hams present.

Marty Fowler and David Adcock requested volunteers for the radio demonstration at Radio Shack in Buford and for the Suwanee Parade events both on September 21.

A good show of hands went up.

Richard Bedell, KD4SGE requested volunteers for the Bike Atlanta Peachtree event where participants bike or rollerblade from Athens to Atlanta's Piedmont Park both on October 6. Athens Radio Club is doing the Athens to Dacula section and Richard would like **GARS** to handle the Dacula to Piedmont Park Section. Please call Richard at 770-840-9518 to help.



Carter Wood, KF4HLF and Bill Ahls talked about the International Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air. **GARS** had a good show of hands to help this event in Gwinnett county. The date and time is Saturday October 19 from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Lawrenceville UMC Campgrounds.

The minutes for the August meeting were approved as published in The GARZETTE.

Randy Drescher, K4HS, presented the treasurers report and current **GARS** checking balance which was approved by the membership.

A thank you was sent to Smith, Beecham, Kline Laboratories for the deep cycle sealed batteries donated to the club. Many are in use now at the repeater sites.

Eddie Foust, WD4JEM, said the next fox hunt will be Tuesday October 2, 7:00 PM at the Lawrenceville water tower.

Mark Kozma, KD3GC, said the

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## Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

field day committee had their first meeting, and concluded field day could use more CW operator. Training may be a new part of field day 1997. For contesting as a club the October 5, 6 California QSO contest, and October 12, 13 Pennsylvania QSO contests were mentioned for highest single and multiple operators in **GARS**. See your QST contest corral for other contest **GARS** can participate. These are in addition to any ARRL certificates.

Other news, John Farr, KD6CLO, gave an update on packet. Cheryl McClure, AE4HN, said the Rookie Radio AT kits were ordered.

David Adcock, KA4KKF presented the new applications for membership in **GARS**. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. (See the sidebar on page 5 for the list of new **GARS** members.)

The meeting was adjourned at 21:40 local time by President Gould.



### Random Ramblings

"All power corrupts, but we need the electricity."

>> Unknown

"I'm worried that the universe will soon need replacing. It's not holding a charge."

>> Edward Chilton

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible."

>> Walt Disney



## GARS Fox Hunt



Tuesday  
October 22, 1996

Meet at the  
Lawrenceville  
water tank,  
(club repeater site)  
at 19:00 hrs. local.

The hunt will have some driving required and possibly some foot work. Bring your jacket, flashlight, 2 meter receiver, beams, aluminum foil, and friend/driver. The hunt will be over when the fox is found or when we get too tired to continue.

For additional information  
contact

Eddie Foust, WD4JEM  
(770) 339-4886  
eddierfoust@juno.com.

Additional readings:

ARRL Handbook  
Transmitter Hunting  
by TAB Books  
QST and 73 magazines.

## 1996-1997

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## OPTIMIZING MOBILE RIGS

By Bob Snipes, KS4EP

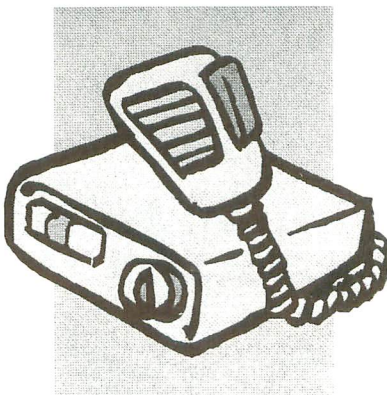
Quite often the difference between a outstanding and marginal mobile unit is in the antenna, the installation, and the attempt to reduce interference. I would like to address each of these items and hopefully pass on some things to do that have worked well for me over the years.

### INSTALLATION:

Where to put the radio is a challenge as never seen before, what with no room under the dash and consoles with no space. Sometimes we get lucky as I did with my Taurus. It had a storage compartment in the console that I removed and provided a super place to place my rig. Be certain that you have adequate air flow, however as some of the heat sinks can get quite warm on long transmissions. Some of the newer rigs have detachable fronts that let you place them almost anywhere. These are neat but pricey.

Industrial Velcro is a neat way to keep your radio from sliding all over the place and this also works well as a mike hanger. If you have trouble getting the sticky side of the Velcro to adhere try a little lacquer thinner applied with a "Q" tip to remove some of the oil from the plastic on the dash. Try this first in a concealed place to make sure it doesn't damage the material.

Run your power leads through the firewall direct to the battery. Try to find a grommet in a existing hole, punch a hole in it and pass the leads through this hole. Dress the leads close to the body and twist them a bit so that anything picked up by the wires tends to get canceled out. Making a couple of loops through a ferrite doughnut will help to keep RF from the rig out of the engine compartment. This will really please the chips hiding there. Be sure to fuse both the positive and negative leads. Why bother



with the negative lead? Consider this, if by accident your vehicles main negative lead became disconnected from the battery and you attempted to crank your car all of the high starting current would try to go through the relatively small wire going to your radio. Lots of smoke and probably fire we don't need!

Running the coax under the carpet and removing the rear seat to run the cable to the trunk takes only a few extra minutes and results in a much neater job also it keeps the cable from getting damaged. Be careful and don't pinch or pierce the cable when putting things back together.

### SELECTING THE ANTENNA:

Here we have a trade off, performance vs. looks. My favorite is the 5/8 wave as it gives you more gain than a 1/4 wave on VHF and UHF applications. The through the glass antennas are generally the poorest performers. on HF it depends a lot on what bands you intend to work the most as to what antenna works the best for you, some are extremely ugly, large and efficient such as the Texas Bug-catcher. A 1/4 wave whip will work OK on 10 meters without a loading coil but the other bands will require some type of loading because otherwise the antenna would be too physically long. Base loaded an-

tennas have a mechanical advantage and require fewer turns of wire resulting in reduced coil losses.

Once you have installed your antenna you need to check your SWR. Adjust for a low SWR in the middle of the frequencies you use most often. by the way sometimes you just can't get it down to a perfect match of 1 to 1. Don't worry about a 1.2 to 1 mismatch, you'll never know the difference however a 2 to 1 or higher is cause for concern if you can't adjust it out.

Tune up to the high end of the band and check the SWR then repeat for the low end. Of course you have to transmit and have a SWR meter to do this (unless you are fortunate enough to have an analyzer). If your reading is higher on the high end of the band you need to make your antenna shorter. If it is lower it should be made longer. Remember the shorter the antenna the higher the resonant frequency. Remember the FCC rules and ID when we're testing.

If you have a 3 to 1 you've got serious problems and may have an open or a short. Disconnect both ends of the coax and check with a ohmmeter for continuity and shorts. You may have also pinched the cable when installing it and created a impedance lump. By the way some antennas normally show a open or short on a ohmmeter and either way can be normal according to the way its made. Most rigs and antennas are designed for 50 ohm cable and if you use something other than this you will never get a low SWR reading.

It's interesting to know that if you mount the antenna toward one end of the vehicle you will get a small gain toward the other end.

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## OPTIMIZING MOBILE RIGS

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### INTERFERENCE:

I'm sure all of us have heard the windshield wiper, blower motors, alternator noises and what have you from time to time on other peoples signals. Sometimes you can even tell if they have a automatic transmission or not by the way the pitch changes. Do the operator a favor by nicely telling them this. If nobody tells them how will they ever know?

To determine the source of the interference we need some detective tools. Luckily most of the noise sources are broad spectrum and simple equipment will find them. Locate a portable AM broadcast receiver and tune to a unused frequency. if your radio has a whip antenna you're in luck if not make a inductive loop of wire 2-3 turns 4" in diameter and couple this to your receiver antenna input. Crank the volume up. You now have a "sniffer". Pass the whip or loop over different areas and listen. Ignition noise makes a buzzing or popping sound. A bad diode in the alternator will make a whining noise that will increase in pitch as engine rpm is increased. To check most of the accessories turn off the engine and then turn the ignition switch back on without cranking the car. This will allow you to turn on the windshield wiper motor, the blower motor and any other accessories without having any RF from the ignition to contend with. Use your loop again to sweep and determine where the interference originates.

Coaxial feed through capacitors can be used in series with small motor power leads to attenuate "hash". conventional capacitors can be used in parallel with reduced results. Ignition noise is harder to control today what with

the high energy systems involved, however resistor type plugs or resistor type wire (but not both) may help. Check the device that electrically bonds the hood to the body and if necessary use braid. Remember that we want to make the engine compartment as tight a RF box as we can both for things in as well as out. As a last resort go to shielded DC leads. Mini RG-8 works well as a low to medium current cable that is shielded but don't apply excess heat to the center conductor as you can push it to the side and short it out. If you need braid for electrically connecting the hood to the firewall or other reasons you can make it by removing the shield from coax cable. Remove the outer jacket to the length you need and form a loop about 1" from the jacket. Push the braid aside with a pointed object, form a hole and pull the center conductor with the insulator through the hole. Cut and you now have nice woven braid.

Even those of us that that are using a fm rig can benefit from these measures because when we reduce interference we also reduce de-sense to the front end of the rig so we can hear better. On SSB we can certainly benefit from less noise and others will benefit from a cleaner signal we transmit on all modes.

Thank you for reading this article,  
73 Bob



### Random Ramblings

"The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age."

>> Lucille Ball

"He is winding the watch of his wit; by and by it will strike."

>> William Shakespeare

## GARS Grows Again!

Seven new members were voted in at the September meeting:

Ron Todd, AE4LQ  
Beth Todd, KE4YZR  
Michael Todd, KF4LSG  
Matthew Todd, KF4LUG.  
Terry Lewis, KD4KVY  
Pam Lewis, KD4YHJ  
Kim Lewis, KF4BHX

Please welcome the new members to the club in person and on the **GARS** repeaters.

This brings the **GARS** membership to a total of 258.



## Chintzy QSL Cards Update

An article by Dean Matthews, AD4OD in the September issue of **THE GARZETTE** has sparked interest on the **GARS** repeater and via the Internet. Dean has provided the following information about his QSL card as pictured in last month's issue.

The photo was taken by Pickett Cummins, AD4S. The card was printed by VI-CON, PO Box 10013, Kansas City MO 64171 (800)869-7527.

If you would like more information Dean can be reached via email at [ad4od@aol.com](mailto:ad4od@aol.com) or his phone number is in the current issue of the **GARS** roster.





## Deviation, Are You An Over Deviate?

By Eddie R. Foust, WD4JEM

In frequency modulation (FM) deviation refers to the modulation of a center frequency such as 147.075 MHz to create a pattern of change to the center frequency which represents the audio input to the transmitter. On most FM transmitters the microphone audio is amplified then processed through filters to limit the bandwidth of the audio input to 200 to 3000 Hz. This bandwidth limited audio is then sent to an automatic gain control stage (deviation control) to limit the audio level to a pre-determined level to be injected into the radio frequency (RF) mixer circuit. The mixer circuit converts the audio signal as we hear it into a RF signal by mixing the audio with the RF signal generated by the radio crystal or microprocessor circuits. The mixed signal is then passed through additional stages in the transmitter then to the antenna.

Amateur radio operations in the narrow band FM mode are typically limited to 5 KHz deviation from the center frequency.. This deviation is created by the audio signal level presented to the RF mixer circuit in the transmitter. For proper transmitter operation, the deviation control must be set to limit the transmitter frequency deviation to plus or minus 5 kHz at maximum audio level input to the microphone. When a station is deviating at the maximum 5 KHz level, the transmitter output for a transmitter centered on 147.075 MHz is actually moving between 147.070 MHz and 147.080 MHz. This creates a total frequency swing of 10 KHz at peak deviation.

Currently, most repeaters and simplex frequencies in the VHF bands are based on 15 KHz channel spacing; this spacing allows for a 5 KHz space between the modulated carriers of adjacent channels in order to prevent interference.

Most commercial quality receivers are built to receive and process an FM signal which does not exceed plus or minus 5 KHz deviation. Any deviation in excess of 5 KHz on a good quality receiver will be out of the receiver pass band and typically will be ignored on voice peaks causing the incoming signal to "chop out" at the receiving station. Deviation in excess of 5 KHz also may cause the offending station to "kerchunk" an adjacent channel receiver causing unacceptable and unknowing interference to others in the Amateur Service.

Why should I, a **GARS** member be concerned about deviation? Our neighbors in nearby Fulton County have a repeater on 147.060, just 15 KHz away from the **GARS** machine. If we operate our base, mobile, or hand held transmitters with excess deviation we can cause excessive interference to our neighbor's repeater. As the saying goes, "What goes around, comes around"; we could experience the same problem on the **GARS** repeater from adjacent channel repeater users who over deviate.

What should I do to make sure my station is not guilty of over deviation? Transmitter deviation is set using an instrument called a deviation meter. This meter is used by manufacturers and repair shops to verify transmitter deviation after manufacture or repair of an FM transmitter. Additionally some amateur radio equipment suppliers sell deviation meters for use by hams. The transmitter deviation on commercially manufactured transmitters is usually set at the factory during tune up. Anytime you modify the audio circuits of the transmitter, change microphones, add amplified microphones, or connect the radio to a

TNC for packet operations, the transmitter deviation should be checked with a calibrated FM deviation meter to verify that your station is transmitting within FCC requirements for minimal bandwidth usage. Typically, a transmitter's deviation should be set at 3 1/2 KHz deviation for normal voice levels so peaks will be limited to 5 KHz or less. Failure to verify transmitter deviation could cause your station to be operating within violation of current FCC rules, cause interference to you're amateur radio neighbor, and limit your ability to effectively communicate. So next time someone tells you your "chopping out" of the repeater, it may be time to have your radio's deviation checked.

For additional reading please see the following:

FCC Amateur Radio Rule Part 97

THE ARRL HANDBOOK FOR RADIO AMATEURS, 1995 edition

VHF UHF MANUAL  
by G.R. Jessop, G6JP, 4th edition



### Random Ramblings

"Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary."

>> Robert Louis Stevenson

"Inform all the troops that communications have completely broken down."

>> Ashleigh Brilliant

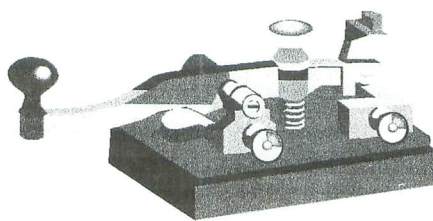
"Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves."

>> Abraham Lincoln



## Rookie Radio Notes

By Carter Wood, KF4HLF



One of the fun parts of a Hamfest is the funny buttons and tee-shirts. I like the dry humor that seems to pervade the Ham community. One such tee-shirt saying at a recent fest was "Real Radios Glow in the Dark". I guessed that the wearer was a devotee to the older rigs. Later I saw his collection of Collins gear and I understood what he meant. One time I had listened in on the Collins Net. They think that God has a KW1.

Another cute saying was "Five Words a Minute IS No Code". As a new comer to amateur radio, I did not understand this one and fearing there might be some attitude behind it, I did not ask. But QST magazine and the guys in the club, especially at the Pro-Am contest had convinced me that 2m is just scratching the surface so I resolved to at least try to learn the code. In times before I had been required to learn the definition of leather and to recite the Greek alphabet - backwards so I figured it could be done. Another lunch time trip to HRO later and I had a tape course. OK, it was a long lunch if you work in L'ville but it was worth it just to be able to visit the place. EVERY guy there has a 1by2 call-sign or nearly so on his business card and yet they are always great at helping someone who admits their ignorance. Never try to snow a senior Ham - that should be on the Tech test. The tapes start out boringly slow but that doesn't last very long. All of a sudden I am getting it but like the Greek letters as a lowly pledge, they're backwards. A P is di dah dah dit, or is that a Z? The L's sound like F's. Does the J have two dah's and the W three?

All this learning curve is via headphones so the YF (please don't ever use XYL around her) is offering somewhat negative com-

mentary about the beeping. Some days it comes clear and other days I think I could get more intelligence out of Rap music or a direct feed from a T1 line. Every week the suspense builds toward Tuesday night when Cheryl, AE4HN, the guardian angel of all new Hams, puts on the code practice. What will she send tonight? Will the sender be in Phoenix? If so why do I have that city in MN instead of NM as it belongs? I mixed them up again. Is there a special diagnosis of code dyslexia?

Well then comes the Shelby Hamfest - the Granddaddy of them all. There's an omen. I'm a granddaddy and soon will repeat in that mode. I'll go far away where no one will know how bad I did on the test but at least I can learn what its like. A great plan that only requires that I drive to Greenville, SC on Friday night. Tour my friend Jim's shack - another Collins operation, and stay up till 2:00am. That leaves a short nap before we are loaded and on the road to Shelby. The booth set up (we sell junk) takes a few minutes and the two sausage biscuits for a dollar does NOT turn out to be such a bargain

Rookie Radio features a guest columnist this month instead of our usual columnist, Cheryl McClure, AE4HN. Carter Wood, KF4HLF wrote this month's article on his journey to 5 wpm. A great idea on his and Cheryl's part. Hope to see other's take their turn in the future.

Editor, KE4GYM

after all. But at least no one from home will see me fail so here I go to waste \$6.05 with the VE's.

There's about thirty people in a small class room at the nearby Community College. On Saturday they don't think they need air conditioning, or maybe its on a computerized timer. The result is the same. First comes the 20wpm test. It sounds like - like nothing at all. There are no spaces between the words. It is a constant stream. An earache sounds better. Six guys ask for the test sheet and four of them passed, including one fellow who not only maxed the test - he had PERFECT transcription! Letters, numbers, punctuation - he had it ALL. Of course the tattoo of USN and the hull number of a destroyer that was launched in 1942 on his arm might have been a hint that he knew the code. Next was the 13 wpm. Some of it was recognizable but then you should expect a sentence to end with a period. Di dah di dah di dah. Ten folks try and eight make it, including the two that missed out at 20.

Now it's our turn. Rookie Radio is up to bat. From the other tests, I had figured out that there are ten multiple guess questions. So I expect at least ten statements. To get all the info into the test at only 5 wpm, the tape runs twelve minutes. It's the longest twelve minutes of my life. Not many people can hold their breath that long but I didn't want any outside interruptions. So ok, give me the test and what do you know - some of it DOES make sense. If he said it was something Minus degrees and only one of the four guesses is below zero even I can figure that out. Where was he? Well, I got mixed up after the minni or was it Miami? If it was that cold, it must have been St Paul not St Pete.

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## The President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

adults by showing them how important it is to have a hobby like ours to rely upon as we grow older. Bill Ahls, KE4EIH and Carter Wood, KF4HLF are coordinating this activity for the Scouts and **GARS**, so show your support by volunteering for this special activity.

Thanks to the efforts of Mark Kozma, KD3GC we will be moving to our new meeting place this month so remember to bring a friend or two and have a good time at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville.

Anyone interested in purchasing a battery or two for a donation of \$15.00 each should get in contact with either Eddie Foust, WD4JEM or myself. I am not sure of the exact count we have as we are going to use most of them for our repeater systems. But there should be enough available to sell to those interested in them. What is left over we will try to sell at the Alford Memorial hamfest coming up in November. The batteries are a large size gel cell, 12 volts and weigh about 50 pounds each. They are rated at 80 amp hours and will power a HT or small rig for a bit.

Things are coming together for our packet system with John Farr,

KD6CLO still working at it. We should be seeing some results soon. We are making plans for expansion of our communications system with the future addition of a third remote at Snellville and our 2 meter backup repeater being located there also. We will move the 440 machine to Snellville at the appropriate time.

I had a thought the other day about the club and how old it is? I think we must be at the 20 year mark and if we are it would be great to do something to honor the occasion. I would like to see if some of the old charter members are around and invite them to our club meeting and officially honor them with a certificate of appreciation. I have asked Bill Ahls, KE4EIH to research this.

With the coming of the yearly emergency SET this October, I wonder why we have lost so much in emergency communications? I would think that the ARRL would love to have a club of our size on their side with lots of volunteers and give us an Emergency Coordinator that would be active with the club. The existing EC is no longer a member of **GARS** and this hurts as we do not have any close ties any more. Sure there is a Sunday night sort of net still being called with very few check in stations. From the input I am receiving from some of the **GARS** members, they would like to see more in the way of motivation and I tend to agree.

What is the solution? I really don't know outside of knowing that it is the responsibility of the existing

EC to generate and motivate the rest of us to do something as the appointed person is in charge and we have no control over these matters. We rely upon being directed by the powers to be which at this point needs to be changed. If I was the appointed EC for this county I would, number one have to take the job seriously and do my best to see that I had a group that I really could count on or the job would not get done. Number two, I would have to keep training those who were active even though there were some who were experienced in traffic handling for we all get stale if we don't do it on a regular basis.

Emergency communications that we would be involved in would be the reporting of damage to property during a natural or man made disaster effecting the majority of Gwinnett County residents. Personal injury and death is also traffic that needs to be handled along with lots of health and welfare traffic. There is no viable RACES in the County and that is because of the lack of interest with the local Emergency Operations Center Management. This is a GEMA thing and they have small minds about amateur radio, relying solely upon their resources on hand, amateur radio not included. With the amount of interested amateur radio operators we have in **GARS**, I would love to see us get more involved.

Maybe there are some of you willing to take the bull by the horns

(Continued on page 9)

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## The President's Pen

(Continued from page 8)

and go out and do it, I will help you the best way I can by communicating our thoughts to the powers to be in the hopes that changes can take place.

Welcome to all you new members of **GARS**, we are pleased to have you join us and we will do all we can for you within the resources of the club. It is my pleasure to appoint Suzanne Farr as our new **GARS** apparel manager. Suzanne has always been in there supporting us many times over and it is the dedication of members like Suzanne that make this club shine. Thanks Suzanne.

Well folks, I hope I haven't bored you to death? Some of the things I said were Not Very Funny but that is why they call me that. There is one thing I learned though and that is to forgive and forget. Sometimes you can settle differences with a friendly hand shake often times not. It depends on the character you are dealing with. We should all walk in each others shoes for a while because that is the only way we can really know each other.

73

Howie W4NVF

## GARS Ham Of The Month John Farr, KD6CLO

(Continued from page 1)

claimed to have been born in Purgatory...moved to Heaven and then went to (you know where). Let's call it Heck. Anyway, sure enough, the guy was telling the truth as there are three cities in Michigan, all within 100 miles of each other named Purgatory, Heaven and Hell. Now that is what I call some rare DX, John! John is anxiously awaiting his QSL card and I'm sure that guys card is a "hot" item.

John has worked and confirmed about 23 states on packet and 10 meter HF. He no longer has an HF rig but is working on getting another one. John is also a member of the ARRL.

John works for Sun River Data in Stone Mountain. His company manufactures and sells dumb terminals. John is also furthering his education attending junior college four nights a week. He is going for a degree in Computer Science and Math.

John is married to Suzanne who is our club's Christmas Party Chairperson. She is currently studying for her ham ticket. John is also Packet Cluster Chairman

and is quite active on the **GARS** repeater and in the club. John was one of the "night owls" at this years field day. John's a real outgoing guy and easy to get to know. He was real excited about getting interviewed and I enjoyed it as much as he did. I plan on talking to John about a packet demonstration since I know zero about that part of the hobby. Please give John a shout on the **GARS** repeater and welcome him to the club. Let me know if you know of someone you would like to see featured in Ham of the Month. Give me a call at home or work and let me know who you'd like to know more about. Till next month, good DX (maybe HF will perk up!) and best 73.

Karl  
N4JON

### Random Ramblings

"I have not lost my mind - it's backed up on disk somewhere."

>> Unknown

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."

>> Jeff Valdez

"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be."

>> Douglas Adams

❖❖❖

### Work **GARS**

#### REPEATERS

2-Meter 147.075 MHz <sup>+600</sup>  
PL 82.5  
70-cm 444.525 MHz <sup>+5MHz</sup>  
PL 156.7

TELEPHONE BBS  
**GARS** Conference in  
Scientific-Atlanta BBS  
(770) 903-6789

#### 6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at  
50.075 MHz

#### PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet  
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

**SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET**  
Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the  
**GARS** 2m Repeater.

#### MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the **GARS** 2m repeater.

**PACKET RADIO USERS NET**  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the **GARS**  
2m Repeater.

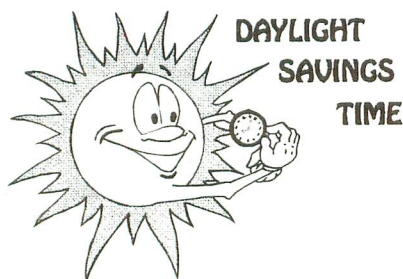
❖❖❖



## Rookie Radio Notes

(Continued from page 7)

I passed the test. Do I know the code? That point is still debatable. I think years of taking tests helped a lot but I DID get the information. I communicated and in a few days the QRZ lookup web page listed my upgrade. A few more days and I got the new license. It means more to me than the first one. Now I have a license to LEARN. When is the W1AW slow code on 10m? Does another repeater have code practice on another night? Five words per minute is NO CODE - its a start of the real fun! Lunch that day was a ZIPPA!



Don't Forget To  
"Fall Back"

Daylight Savings Times Ends  
At 02:00  
October 27

## Bits And Pieces From The ARRL

*The items in this column are taken from the ARRL Newsletter published by the American Radio Relay League.*

### MARS Drops CW

All CW nets and other CW activity in the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) were ordered to cease operation effective October 1, 1996. After that time, no CW nets or other CW activity will be allowed on any DOD MARS frequencies. A final MARS CW message was transmitted simultaneously on Army, Navy and Air Force MARS frequencies on September 30.

### Call For Papers

The Southeastern VHF Society Inc of Cornelia, Georgia, has issued a call for conference papers for its 1997 conference April 4-5, 1997, at the Atlanta Marriott Northwest Windy Hill, between Atlanta and Marietta, Georgia. The society promotes weak-signal modes and VHF, UHF and microwave experimentation. Jim Worsham, WA4KXY, is conference chairman. For more conference information, visit the SVHFS Web site at <http://www.akorn.net~ae6e/svhfs/svhfs.html>, or contact Tad Danley, NZ3I 2045 Amber Creek Dr Buford, GA 30519 tel 770-513-925 e-mail [tad.danley@nextel.com](mailto:tad.danley@nextel.com).

### DXCC Processing Status

The DXCC Desk reports the number of unprocessed applications at the end of September, 1996, was 929 (55,598 QSLs). It received 1013 applications (53,385 QSLs) for endorsements and new awards during September. Applications being sent out at the end of September were received about two weeks earlier. A few applications received prior to that time were awaiting conversion of paper records, or were being audited.

### Wohlers Has Email

ARRL ham radio insurance administrator Albert H. Wohlers & Co now can be accessed via e-mail. To request a brochure: use [info@ahw.com](mailto:info@ahw.com). Customer service questions: [cusv@ahw.com](mailto:cusv@ahw.com).

### Thruway Hamming

The New York State Thruway Authority plans to place ARRL Amateur Radio recruitment brochures at rest stops along the toll highway.



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# THE GARZETTE

OCTOBER, 96

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30226



Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here

**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on February 15 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

OCTOBER, 96

## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

**GARS** Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI VEC  
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 338-8791  
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road,  
Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758  
St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell  
Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM  
George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.  
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM  
Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710  
First Presbyterian Church,  
183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC  
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC  
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement  
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM  
**GARS W5YI-VEC**  
**Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362**  
**St. John Neumann Church**  
**801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks**  
**Trickum Rd, Lilburn**

## Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	<b>GARS Weekly Net</b>
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	<b>GARS CW Practice</b>
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	<b>GARS Packet Net</b>
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	<b>Gwinnett ARES Net</b>
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafras Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.